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PART I.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

Resettlement of Gundlupet Taluk.

READ—

Government Order No. Camp 1-8, dated the 11th April 1891, sanctioning the original settlement of the Gundlupet Taluk.

2. Letter No. 59, dated the 26th November 1925, from the Superintendent, Revenue Survey and Settlements submitting proposals for the revision of assessment in the Gundlupet Taluk.

3. Letter No. 92, dated the 8th February 1926, from the same officer, forwarding with his remarks the opinions of the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, and the Revenue Commissioner on the above proposals.

4. Correspondence ending with letter No. 104, dated the 22nd February 1926, from the same officer, forwarding with the remarks of the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, and the Revenue Commissioner, four objection petitions, together with his own remarks.

ORDER No. R. 5271-82—L. S. 20-25-6, DATED 19TH APRIL 1926.

The proposals relate to the revision of assessment in 161 villages, of which 158 are situated in the Gundlupet Taluk and the remaining three villages in the Chamrajnagar Taluk. At the time of the original settlement in 1891, there were 179 villages, of which 23 have been absorbed in other villages. Four District and State Forests and a new village, *viz.*, Magunhalli-Melakamanahalli, proposed to be formed out of the Bhandipur State Forest, have now been added on.

2. The climate of the tract is salubrious except that the southern portion is slightly malarial. The rainfall is sufficient and seasonal, the average for 30 years ranging from 25·2 inches to 31·40 inches per year.

3. There are 27 tanks and 757 irrigational wells in the taluk. Of the major tank, three are restored, and the remaining three unrestored while all the minor tanks are restored. The Vijayapur Amanikere is the largest, with an atchkat of about 450 acres. The Gundlu river empties itself into this tank. Two masonry bunds are put up across the river in the limits of Dumbrasanapur and Kammerahalli, thus bringing under wet cultivation, a further extent of land. A sum of Rs. 93,506-9-4 has been spent on the improvement and repairs of tanks, since the original settlement.

4. Jola is the staple crop of the Taluk. The other common dry crops are gram, ragi, chillies and other pulses. Paddy is grown in limited quantities under the tanks. The chief garden crops are plantains, cocoanuts and betel leaves. Cotton cultivation is prevailing in all parts of the Taluk and is capable of development.

5. There has been a steady increase in the population of the taluk from 61,499 in 1891 to 77,659 in 1921, 19 villages having a population of over 1,000 and 44 of over 500.

6. Gundlupet, the Headquarters of the Taluk occupies a central position, with roads radiating from it in all directions to the adjoining taluks and to the Malabar and the Nilgiris in the Madras Presidency. The road connecting Malabar with Mysore affords special facilities for the timber traffic from the former place. A number of cart-tracks connect the interior villages with the main roads.

7. Weekly fairs are held at Kotekere and Terakanambi. The fair held at Terakanambi is one of the biggest in the State, with traders from the Niligiris resorting to it in large numbers and with very large transactions, besides affording facility to the raiyats, to dispose of their produce. The annual festival in Gopalaswami Hills is an important one.

8. The agricultural resources of the people have considerably improved since the original settlement. Houses have increased by 88 per cent, cattle by 36 per cent, carts by 66 per cent, and ploughs by 57 per cent. The transport of timber and oranges from Malabar provides a good source of income to the agriculturists who use their carts in the slack season for the purpose. There is a marked increase in the value of the land. The prices of the staple agricultural products have also appreciably risen:—

Jolum by 270·74 per cent, ragi by 248·44 per cent, rice by 172 per cent, Bengal-gram by 191·36 per cent, avare by 190·47 per cent, and chillies by 100 per cent.

9. The area under occupation has expanded from 117,300 acres with an assessment of Rs. 82,558 in 1894-95 to 125,982 acres with an assessment of Rs. 86,956 in 1923-24. There were no remissions during the currency of the present settlement. The revenue history of the Taluk is one of steady progress.

10. The Survey Superintendent submits the following proposals, for revision in the rates without disturbing the present grouping of the villages into three classes:—

Group	Dry		Maximum rates			
			Wet		Garden	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
I	1 6 0	1 12 0	7 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
II	1 2 0	1 8 0	6 0 0	7 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
III	10 12 0	1 0 0	5 0 0	6 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0

These proposals are expected to result in a net increase of Rs. 29,608 or 33 per cent over the present assessment of the taluk or more correctly 26 per cent after making allowance for the increase of cultivated area. The average rates under the original and revised settlement compare as under:—

	Original settlement	Revision settlement
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Dry	0 10 3	0 13 2
Wet	3 8 7	3 15 5
Garden	3 6 11	2 14 6

11. Four objection petitions have been received from the raiyats of the taluk. The Deputy Commissioner and the Revenue Commissioner consider that the representations are of a general nature. The Survey Superintendent adds that they have already been taken note of in the resettlement report.

12. The Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, who was consulted, is of opinion that the maximum dry rates proposed by the Survey Superintendent may be accepted, except in the second group, where the increase should be reduced from six annas to four annas. He is not in favour of increasing the existing maximum wet rates. In support of his views, he urges that the proposed rates exceed the average for the several groups of the Heggaddevankote Taluk and that the efficiency of tanks has deteriorated owing to silting up and that the paddy grown is confined to lands under a few tanks and is not also sufficient for local consumption with the result that a large quantity of it is imported into the taluk. Other reasons, such as, the malarious climate of a portion of the taluk, and the backwardness of the taluk owing to the paucity of roads and communications, are also adduced.

13. The Revenue Commissioner accepts the dry and garden rates proposed in the revision settlement report but agrees with the Deputy Commissioner not to alter the present maximum wet rates. He, however, suggests, that, as a compromise, if an increase n wet rate is considered necessary, it need not exceed 8 annas per acre in each group.

14. As against these criticisms, the Survey Superintendent states that the silting up of tanks has no bearing upon the maximum wet rate to be fixed, that note is taken of the deterioration of tanks in the classification of lands and that various concessions are now extended to holders of wet lands, such as remission of assessment in bad years, exemption from levy of irrigation cess, and that increase of Re. 1 proposed in the wet rates is very moderate and fully justified. As regards the reduction of the proposed maximum dry rate in Group II from 6 annas to 4 annas, he argues that dry cultivation has extended much more largely in this group than in the first one and that a case is made out for a higher increase in that group and that, even though the Deputy Commissioner's suggestion is accepted, the average dry rate in Group II will be reduced from Re. 0-12-2 to Re. 0-11-2, which does not substantially relieve the raiyat of his burden. He therefore adds that his proposals may be accepted in their entirety.

15. Government have carefully considered the proposals made by the Survey Superintendent and the opinions of the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, and the Revenue Commissioner. They observe that, as regards the proposed dry rates, they compare favourably with those in force in the adjoining Heggaddevankote Taluk, and that the raiyats are much benefited by the rise in the prices of crops grown and that the increase proposed is moderate and fair. The Survey Superintendent's proposals regarding the dry rates are accordingly approved.

16. In the matter of the wet rates, it may be noted that the silting up of tanks is not peculiar to the Gundlupet Taluk alone. All the minor tanks have been restored at considerable cost to Government and are in good condition. The inadequacy of water, complained of, by the raiyats in a few cases is due to the want of satisfactory arrangement for control over the distribution of water from the tanks and the consequent wastage resulting in the intimately depletion of the tanks. Apart from these, there is considerable force in the arguments that a portion of the Taluk is malarial, that it is backward owing to paucity of communications in the interior as no road was opened during the currency of the present settlement and that paddy, its production under a few tanks not being sufficient for local consumption, is imported from abroad. Taking these circumstances into consideration, Government are of opinion that, as suggested by the Revenue Commissioner, it would be sufficient if the maximum wet rate is increased by 8 annas in each group. The garden rates will remain as heretofore. With this modification the proposals of the Survey Superintendent which result in a net addition of Rs. 29,186 or 32·07 per cent to the present Survey assessment are sanctioned. The new rates will be announced as soon as possible and brought into effect from 1st July 1926, with the usual guarantee of 30 years.

17. The Irrigation Cess will not be levied separately on Government lands. It will be treated as merged in the revised wet and garden assessment, and a lumpsum equivalent to the amount of the cess will be set apart towards the Irrigation Cess Fund.

P. G. D'SOUZA,
Chief Secretary to Government.